

TANF SERVICES FUNDED IN WISCONSIN

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Program Description:

Wisconsin is committed to lifelong learning and the development of a quality workforce as well as the reduction of poverty by improving the skills, abilities, knowledge and general employability of individuals in the workforce. To this end, the Employment Skills Advancement Program (ESAP) was developed to provide limited grants, of up to \$500, for low-income workers motivated to improve the quality of their lives through education or training activities.

Client Group Served:

ESAP, administered by the W-2 agencies, provides grants to low-income working parents (income below 165 percent of the FPL) for tuition, books, transportation or other direct costs of training or education in a vocational training or education program. To receive an ESAP grant an individual must be a custodial parent and meet all of the eligibility requirements that follow:

- The individual must have been determined eligible for AFDC or a W-2 employment position, within 5 years before applying for the grant;
- The individual must have been employed in an unsubsidized job for at least six consecutive months prior to applying for the grant;
- The individual must have worked an average of at least 40 hours per week, unless the employer and the W-2 agency agree that the applicant may work fewer hours;
- The individual must contribute, or obtain from another source, an amount at least equal to the amount of the grant, for tuition, books, transportation or other direct costs of training and education; and
- The individual must have sought other forms of assistance from the institution's financial aid office and grants administered by Wisconsin's Higher Education Aids Board.

Critical Indicators:

11 grants have been provided worth over \$3,500.

TOTAL TANF FUNDING: \$100,000